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rhombic octahedrons, with the edges cut off; at  $90^\circ$  they glisten with the most beautiful play of colors, like the diamond; at times groups are formed which seem exactly like a set of diamond jewelry.

**PROTECTOR FOR OBJECTIVES.**—A very convenient and useful contrivance for covering the front surface of an objective, and thereby protecting it from injury from corrosive fluids or gases, and also for enabling the objective to be plunged directly into water so that different layers of the liquid may be rapidly examined for microscopic constituents, or sediments at the bottom examined *in situ*, is made by T. H. McAllister, of 49 Nassau

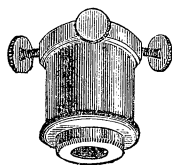


Fig. 1.

street, New York. Fig. 1 gives an external view of the instrument, and Fig. 2 shows it in section as applied to an objective. It is made of brass and closed at the lower end with a thin cover glass. It is applicable to any objective of sufficiently narrow mounting and long working focus, and it works well with powers from a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch to a low-angled  $\frac{1}{4}$ th or  $\frac{1}{8}$ th.

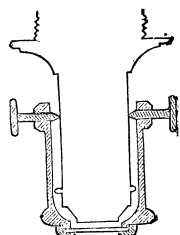


Fig. 2.

**LIVING OBJECTS FOR THE MICROSCOPE.**—Living specimens of animals and plants are supplied, for microscopical study, by A. D. Balen, of Plainfield, N. J. Single packages are sent by mail for 30 cents, or contracts made for a weekly supply, throughout the season, at a still lower rate.

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## SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— At a meeting of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, held April 5th, Dr. William Barrows read the following memorial to Congress:

“To the Honorable the Senate of the United States:—Your petitioners, the members of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, would respectively represent that there are in the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona twenty-six towns of the Pueblo Indians, so called, in all containing about ten thousand inhabitants; that the number of their towns was once very much greater; that those remaining are the remnant of very ancient races in North America whose origin and history lie yet unknown in their decayed and decaying antiquities; that many of the towns have been abandoned by the decay and extinction of their inhabitants; that many of these relics have already perished, and so made the study of American ethnology vastly more difficult; that the question of the origin of the Pueblos and the age of their decayed cities, and the use of some of their buildings, now magnificent ruins,

constitute one of the leading and most interesting problems of the antiquary and historian of the present age; that relic hunters have carried and scattered wide through America and Europe the remains of these extinct towns, thus making their history's study still more difficult, and in some particulars nearly impossible; that the extinct towns, the only monuments or interpreters of these mysterious races, are now daily plundered and destroyed in an almost vandal way; that for illustration the ancient Spanish cathedral or pecos, a building older than any now standing anywhere in the original thirteen States, and built two years before the founding of Boston, is being despoiled by the robbery of its graves, while its timbers are being used for camp-fires and sold to relic-hunters, and even used in the construction of stables. Your petitioners therefore pray that at least some of these extinct cities or pueblos be carefully selected, with the land reservations attached, and dating mostly from the Spanish crown of 1680, may be withheld from public sale, and their antiquity and ruins be preserved, as they furnish invaluable data for ethnological studies, now engaging the attention of our most learned, scientific, antiquarian and historical students."

— It is proposed by a committee, signed by S. F. Baird, Drs. S. D. Gross, H. C. Wood, Weir Mitchell, Mr. Fairman Rogers, and others, to make a suitable and substantial acknowledgment of the preëminent services rendered to science by Professor Joseph Leidy, who has held the chair of anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania for thirty years, and to provide a testimonial which, while expressing the admiration of those who unite in it for his disinterested and self-sacrificing devotion to science, will relieve him from some elementary teaching and enable him to devote himself hereafter to those fields of profound investigation in which he is unrivaled. It is proposed, therefore, that the sum of \$100,000 shall be raised, the interest of which shall be annually paid to Professor Joseph Leidy during his lifetime; and that, after his death, the said income shall be applied in perpetuity to the maintenance of the Joseph Leidy Chair of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania. The names of the contributors will be perpetuated in a suitable manner. Subscriptions will be received by Dr. William Pepper, No. 1811 Spruce street, Philadelphia.

— At the request of Dr. Anton Dohrn, Director of the Zoölogical station at Naples, Dr. W. B. Scott has accepted the Honorary Secretaryship for America for the publications of the Naples station. Monographs on the Ctenophores, by Dr. C. Chun; on the genus *Fierasfer*, by Dr. C. Emery; on the Pantoda, by Dr. A. Dohrn and on the Corallines, by Professor Solms, have already been issued, and a number of others are in preparation. These works are of a high order of excellence, and very fully illustrated. Dr. Simon Syrski, Professor of Zoölogy in the University of Lem-

berg, a well known ichthyologist who discovered the male of the common eel, died January 14, aged 51. Professor A. W. Malm of Göttenberg, Sweden, died March 4, aged 61.

— The death of Professor William B. Rogers, the President of the National Academy of Science, and late President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, occurred very suddenly May 30, while delivering the opening address of the commencement exercises of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Boston. Professor Rogers was born in Philadelphia in 1805. In 1835 he organized the geological survey of Virginia and conducted it until its discontinuance in 1842. He published numerous papers on mechanics, physics and geology. He was a fluent, elegant speaker and debater, most genial and kindly, hearty, ready and sympathetic in his intercourse with young scientists, and was in all respects a rare and admirable man.

— It is the intention of the writer to publish an account of the spawning season of as many marine forms as possible, with a brief description of the methods of oviposition, places to look for eggs and embryos, and such other details as will aid one in obtaining and recognizing such material as is necessary for embryological work. To this end he would request that all who are working at the development of marine forms would send him notes covering the points in question for which due credit will be given. It is thought that the desirableness of such a paper will be evident to all, and it is hoped that the responses will be numerous. Address all replies to J. S. Kingsley, care Boston Society of Natural History, Boston, Mass.

— Dr. Joseph Szabo, Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the University of Budapest, Hungary, in a recent letter announces his intention to be present at the meeting of the American Association at Montreal in August. He will start from Liverpool for Quebec in the early portion of July, and will visit as much of our country as possible in the short space of time that he can remain. He is especially desirous of visiting the Yellowstone National park. He is especially anxious to secure a great variety of the igneous rocks of this country, especially those from our Western territories. His writings on the volcanic rocks of Hungary and other portions of Europe are numerous and valuable.

— The French Government is to establish a zoölogical laboratory on the shores of the Mediterranean at Villafranche, near Nice, under the care of Dr. J. Barrois. We have received from Professor Lacaze-Duthiers a brochure giving a full account, with plans, of his prosperous seaside laboratory at Roscoff, and the winter zoölogical laboratory which he has founded at Banyuls-sur-mer.

— Mr. E. W. Nelson has returned from a sojourn of four and a half years in Northern Alaska. Besides his meteorological work, in connection with the U. S. Signal Service, he has brought to Washington an extensive and complete series of specimens, among which are about nine thousand implements and carvings, illustrating the mode of life of the Esquimaux and their handiwork. His notes of their customs, his vocabularies, and his collection of photographs, are very interesting and important. He has also secured a large collection of the birds and fishes of Alaska.

— Among the new fellows elected at the last meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society, says the *English Mechanic*, was Mr. W. A. Thoms, baker of Alyth, who for the past ten years has been engaged in tracing the origin of leaven, which he concludes is identical with the fibrin of gluten and the granular contents of embryo-membranes. Mr. Thoms has also devoted a great deal of time to an investigation of the potato disease, and the salmon fungus.

— Charles M. Wheatley, who was well known for his important discoveries of a Mesozoic Saurian bone-bed near Phoenixville, and of a Quaternary cave in eastern Pennsylvania, containing bones of the *Megalonyx*, tapir, peccary, etc., died May 6th. Mr. William S. Vaux died in Philadelphia May 5th, leaving a bequest of \$10,000 to the Academy of Natural Sciences.

— Among the papers read at the recent meeting of the American Forestry Association, held at Cincinnati, was one paper on forest tree culture in California, and another on the growth of certain California forest trees and the meteorological influences suggested thereby, by R. E. C. Stearns.

— The next meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Montreal, beginning Aug. 23, under the presidency of Principal J. W. Dawson. A number of British and other foreign scientists will be present, and the meeting will undoubtedly be one of unusual interest.

— Professor Kowalewsky, of Moscow, has gone to the Caucasus to examine the petroleum deposits of that region.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY. Nov. 4, 1881.—Dr. E. R. Heath described his exploration of the rivers Beni and Mamore in Bolivia, illustrating his remarks with maps of the region explored, and giving many particulars relative to the productions of that part of Bolivia.

Nov. 18.—Dr. Brinton explained the substance of his paper on the names of the gods in the Kiche Myth.